

XII.—*Description of some new species of Madeiran Fishes, with additional information relating to those already described.* By the Rev. R. T. LOWE, M.A.*

[Continued from vol. iv. p. 424.]

Family TRIGLIDÆ.

SCORPÆNA USTULATA. *S. minor, laciniis nullis, rubra, pallido variegata nigroque punctata; genis operculisque granulato-pustulosis, macula fusca notatis: pinnae dorsalis medio unimaculatae spina quarta ceteris longiore: capite s. rostro abbreviato, obtuso; maxillis aequalibus: squamis majusculis, scabriusculis.*

D. 12+9; A. 3+5; P. 1+VII.+10; V. 1+5; C. $\frac{5+VI}{5+V}$.

Rariss.

Occasionally taken with the common sort (*Sc. scrofa*, L.), with which it agrees in general colouring, resembling rather the Rocaz (*Sebastus maderensis*, nob.) in shape. It appears undescribed, and is very distinct in its characters, being a true *Scorpæna*, notwithstanding the absence of *laciniæ*, having the whole head naked or scaleless. It scarcely attains half the size of *Sc. scrofa*, L.

Fam. SCOMBRIDÆ.

Nauclerus abbreviatus, Cuv. et Val. Hist. IX. 251.

Two individuals have occurred of this pretty little fish, answering so well to the species above referred to, that it were unreasonable to doubt their identity, although its describers have omitted mentioning a strong superscapular spine, and a fourth smaller tooth or spinule along the lower border of the preopercle, anterior to the three which arm its angle. Alive, and in a glass of sea-water, the activity and lovely colours of these little fishes rendered them most interesting objects. They were taken following a piece of floating timber; and until close examination after death, could scarcely be distinguished from the young of *Naucratus ductor*, Cuv., but for the absence of the caudal keels.

TETRAPTURUS GEORGII.—“*Peito*.”

Having at length, through Mr. Leacock's kind exertions, obtained a fine example of the *Peito* in perfect condition, I am enabled to state that it forms a new and very distinct species of *Tetrapturus*, Rafn.; differing from *T. belone*, Raf., as described by MM. Cuvier and Valenciennes, especially in having the pectoral fins proportionally twice as long, and the body clothed with large scales of a peculiar shape and nature. I only forbear to draw up its specific character till I have checked my notes and observations by examination of more examples; but I hope to be allowed the privilege at once of commemorating by its specific name the valuable assistance rendered to the cause of Ichthyology by Mr. George Butler Leacock, of this island generally, as well as in the present instance.

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Fam. CORYPHÆNIDÆ.

Asteroderma coryphænoides (Bon.); *Astrodermus coryphænoides*, Cuv. et Val. IX. 353. t. 270.—*Diana semilunata*, Risso, Hist. iii. 267. f. 14.

A single small example only has occurred.

Fam. LABRIDÆ.

Ctenolabrus iris, Cuv. et Val. XIII. 236. Rariss.

A most elegant and well-marked little species.

JULIS UNIMACULATA.—“*Peixe verde*.”—*J. elliptico-oblonga, graciliuscula: corpore aurato-viridi, lateribus medio fascia longitudinali obscura: squamis magnis, litura rufa perpendiculate notatis: capite rosaceo-rufo, strigis fasciisve flexuosis cæruleis picto: pinna dorsali medio unimaculata analique basi squamatis: operculo postice biangulato: cauda lunata, lobis abbreviatis.*

D. 8+13; A. 3+11; P. 2+13; V. 1+5; C. $\frac{2v.3 + VI}{2v.3 + VI}$.

Var. *α. tæniata*: corpore 5–6-fasciato: fasciis angustis viridibus, immaculatis. Vulgatiss.

Var. *β. lineolata*: corpore efasciato, toto lituris rufis creberrimis ad perpendiculum ductis æqualiter picto. Vulg.

Blended apparently by Valenciennes (Hist. XIII. 377.) with the blue-collared *J. turcica*, Risso, under the name of *J. pavo*; as formerly by me considered merely a variety of *J. turcica*. Long-continued observations have, however, established its claim to rank as a species, which is composed of two varieties, precisely corresponding with the two of which the true *J. turcica* consists.

Fam. GADIDÆ.

MERLUCIUS AMBIGUUS.—“*Morçégo do mar*.”

Having only obtained a single individual, I forbear attempting a specific character of this little Hake, which, in the production into a filament of the second ray of the ventral fins and grooved nape, resembles a *Motella*; wanting, on the other hand, the beards, and having no trace of any fin within the nuchal groove. From *Merlucius Maraldi*, Risso, Hist. iii. 220. it differs in the colouring; and though the upper jaw closes over the under, it scarcely can be called “longer.” In Risso’s fish the nape is grooved (*sillonnée*), but he says nothing of any peculiarity about the ventral fins.

The Madeiran Hake, or “Pescada,” *Merlucius vulgaris* of my Synopsis, p. 189, proves, upon better acquaintance, distinct from the common British Hake, *M. vulgaris*, Cuv., Yarr., &c. (*Gadus Merlucius*, L.). Instead of being even, the dorsal and anal fins are each produced at their hinder end into a rounded lobe; the jaws are nearly equal in length; the teeth are large and numerous; the scales small. I do not name it, for I believe it has already been called by Mr. Swainson *M. sinuatus*; and I am doubtful whether it may not also be the *M. esculentus* of Risso, iii. 220, though in his synonyms

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Fam. DIODONTIDÆ.

Diodon Hystrix, a. Linn.—*D. punctatus*, Cuv.—*Hystrix piscis Clusii*, &c., Will. *t. I. 5*.

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CARCHARIAS MICROPS.—“*Tubarao*.”

The *Tubarao* of Madeira proves to be a genuine species of *Carcharius*, as defined by MM. Müller and Henle in the Magazine of Natural History for the year 1838, p. 35. It is remarkable for the smallness of the eye; and the teeth, as reported previously by the fishermen, are really feeble in proportion to its bulk; they are in only two rows, and precisely similar in both jaws. The tail is very large and powerful. The individual examined measured eight feet five or six inches in length. I name it only provisionally, and abstain again from attempting a specific character,—deferring, in both points, to the expected publication of MM. Müller and Henle, amongst whose indicated “twenty species” it will probably be found.

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At once distinguished from the only other known species of the genus, *Carcharias vulpes*, Cuv., by the enormous eye and its prominent brow. I have at present only seen a single young example.

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